



## Fact Sheet

# Emergency Water Supply Guidelines for Food Service Establishments

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(Revised)

**Restaurants - Food Stores – Schools  
Institutions - Convenience Stores**

These guidelines are for establishments that provide food service to the public. State regulation (WAC 246-215-120) requires that food service establishment (FSE) owners ensure that their water supply is from a source approved by the Washington State Department of Health (WAC 246-290).

### Procedures During Boil Water Advisory

When a boil water advisory is issued for a water system that supplies a food service establishment, the FSE may only remain open with the authorization of the local health agency. If the local health agency does authorize an FSE to operate during boil water advisory, special requirements may be imposed.

#### Minimum Requirements

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##### ***Shut off:***

- Ice machines
- Drinking fountains
- Produce misters
- Bottled water refill machines
- Pop dispensers connected to water supply
- Running water dipper wells

##### ***Discard:***

- Ice made with contaminated water
- Beverages made with contaminated water

***Ice:*** Use packaged ice from approved source

##### ***Use boiled or bottled water for:***

- Drinking
- Cooking
- Food preparation
- Washing produce

##### ***Hand washing:***

- Wash with antibacterial soap and water.
- Recommended: Use hand sanitizer after rinsing and drying.

##### ***Dishwashing options:*** Follow normal procedures.

- Mechanical dishwasher with high temperature or chemical sanitizer (verify correct operation); or
- Three-compartment sink
  1. Wash in hot water with detergent.
  2. Rinse in warm water.
  3. Sanitize in cool water chemical sanitizer solution (1 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon water) or hot water (170 degrees) for one minute.
  4. Air dry.

##### ***Employee Information:***

- Post signs or copies of the water system's health advisory.
- Develop a plan to notify and educate employees about emergency procedures.

The local health agency may impose additional requirements to protect against health hazards during the boil water advisory, such as modifying food preparation steps or prohibiting some menu items.

**Follow these procedures until notified by the local health agency or the state Department of Health.**

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